# TOP EDITOR DON

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

#### **FOIA Service Center**

January 31, 2019

Kenneth Whittle Reporter MuckRock News DEPT MR 67860 411A Highland Ave Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: FOIA Request No. 19-00733-F

# Dear Kenneth Whittle:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated January 22, 2019 and received in this office on January 23, 2019. Your request was forwarded to the appropriate office to search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following: Any and all information, documents, list of participants, and memorandum, regarding the April 1998 meeting between US Secretary of State for Education, Richard Riley and Malta's Minister of Education and National Culture, Evarist Bartolo, as well as any and all information regarding the participant in the meeting, Dr. Joseph Mifsud, (Head of Department of Primary Education, Faculty of Education, University of Malta).

Staff from the Office of the Secretary informed this office (FSC) that after a search of their files, they were unable to locate any documents that were responsive to your request. The responsive records that you seek are no longer in the custody of the Department. We suggest that you submit a FOIA request to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation.

They can be contacted by:

Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Executive Secretariat U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132 Washington, DC 20202-4510	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	robert.wehausen@ed.gov	OGIS@nara.gov
Phone	202-205-0733	202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	202-741-5769

Lastly, you have the right to appeal this determination. You must submit any appeal within 90 calendar days after the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right, or the deadline, to pursue an appeal. An appeal must be in writing and must include a detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by a copy of this letter, the initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in resolving your appeal. Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at <a href="https://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf">www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf</a>.

# Appeals can also be submitted by:

E-mail: <u>EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov</u>

Fax: 202-401-0920 Mail: Appeals Office

Office of the Executive Secretariat U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106A

Washington, DC 20202-4536

If you have any questions, please contact the FSC at (202) 401-8365 or via email at <a href="mailto:EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov">EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Elise Cook

Elise Cook FOIA Analyst

Office of the Executive Secretariat